

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03671 051657Z

53

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

OIC-02 L-03 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SP-02

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P 051605Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6179

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: FIRST SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON FAO COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

REF: ROME 3621

1. FIRST SESSION CONCLUDED ITS WORK AT NOON MARCH 5, APPROVING LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR STUDY (REPORTED SEPTEL).

2. MORNING MEETING MARCH 5 DEALT ALMOST WHOLLY WITH DETAILED CHANGES IN DRAFT LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR STUDY. AT REQUEST OF ASIAN GROUP MARCH 4, SRI LANKA PROPOSED ADDING REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FAO COUNCIL AND OTHER FAO BODIES. ALTHOUGH NO ONE BASICALLY OPPOSED PROPOSAL, IT CREATED DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE IT WENT BEYOND AGREED INITIAL LIMITE OF FOCUS ON ONLY FAO COUNCIL AND PROGRAM, FINANCE, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS COMMITTEES. CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SUBJECT WAS EXTREMELY COMPLEX, VARYING GREATLY FROM REGION TO REGION, AND COULD BE SUBJECT FOR MAJOR STUDY IN ITSELF. NONETHELESS, IT WAS AGREED TO INCLUDE IT, SUBJECT TO FURTHER VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS AT MAY 17 SESSION.

3. MOST OF TIME WAS SPENT IN INVOLVED DISCUSSION OF MEXICAN

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PAGE 02 ROME 03671 051657Z

(ARMENDARIZ) PROPOSAL TO ADD SECTION ON SUGGESTIONS FOR LEGAL

AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE. CHAIRMAN TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO DROP IT, AND U.S., FRANCE, AND JAPAN QUESTIONED ITS APPROPRIATENESS IN LIST OF SUBJECTS, AND HOW IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY NON-PARTICIPANTS. INDIA AND ZAMBIA EXPRESSED SAME MISGIVINGS MORE EQUIVOCALLY, BUT MEXICO, ALGERIA, AND GUINEA PRESSED HARD FOR ITS INCLUSION, AND WON THEIR WAY, AT COST OF INTRODUCING CONFUSING ELEMENT INTO PAPER.

4. FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, ON BEHALF OF EUROPEAN GROUP, CALLED FOR MORNING OF OPENING DAY IN FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION IN JULY, FOR REGIONAL MEETING. CHAIRMAN AGREED, BUT SAID OPENING DATE IN JULY IS STILL NOT CLEAR, BECAUSE IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER FAO COUNCIL WILL RUN FOR ONLY WEEK BEGINNING JULY 12, OR FOR WEEK AND HALF. VOLPE

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